

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 BIB-01
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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9808
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 00595

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SEYMOUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, PL, US
SUBJECT: RFE COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE
REF: (A) STATE 21222, (B) WARSAW 346

1. POLISH JOURNALIST FRANCISZEK NIETZ'S CONTENTION
THAT RFE BROADCAST A "HEAVILY EDITED VERSION" OF
PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN WARSAW DOES NOT
REPEAT NOT SQUARE WITH THE FACTS.

2. TO BEGIN WITH, RFE'S POLISH BD BROADCAST LIVE REPEAT
LIVE A SIMULTANEOUSLY TRANSLATED VERSION OF THE
PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE. RFE MANAGEMENT UNDERSTANDS
THAT WARSAW TV DID NOT REPEAT NOT CARRY PRESS CONFERENCE
LIVE, BUT ONLY AT 11:00 P.M. (WARSAW TIME) THAT EVENING.
WARSAW RADIO CARRIED PRESS CONFERENCE ONLY AT MIDNIGHT.

3. RFE MANAGEMENT BELIEVES THAT NIETZ MUST HAVE BEEN
CONFUSED BY THE REPEAT OF SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF THE
RFE POLISH BD'S LIVE COVERAGE IN AN RFE PROGRAM BROAD-
CAST LATER THAT EVENING.

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4. IT IS POSSIBLE, MOREOVER, THAT A POLISH LISTENER
MIGHT HAVE FOUND SOME MATERIAL "DELETED" FROM RFE'S
SIMULTANEOUSLY TRANSLATED VERSION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE.
SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION IS AT BEST AN APPROXIMATION,
AND THE RFE EMPLOYEE WHO DID THE TRANSLATION WAS
CHAGRINED ABOUT HAVING MISSED A COUPLE OF POINTS.

5. PORTION OF PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH QUESTIONS WERE POSED IN POLISH (I.E. THE QUESTION POSED BY "THE BAPTIST") PRESENTED GREATEST DIFFICULTIES FOR THE RFE TRANSLATOR. RFE WAS USING A LIVE RADIO FEED FROM WARSAW IN WHICH SOMEONE WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY TRANSLATING POLISH INTO ENGLISH. IT CAN BE CONFUSING TO A TRANSLATOR TO TRY TO LISTEN TO BOTH LANGUAGES AT ONCE.

6. RFE REMINDED ITS POLISH LISTENERS THAT THE POLISH TRANSLATION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON WARSAW TV NEARLY FOUR HOURS AFTER THE FACT, TOOK SOME LIBERTIES. RFE CAREFULLY COMPARED THESE LIBERTIES WITH THE ORIGINAL VERSION. BETTS

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